

BRASS BIZ

As the 50th anniversary of NATO draws near, all the units of The USAF Band are gearing up to lend support to all the festivities planned in the Washington area. The Ceremonial Brass will perform for two ceremonies hosted by General Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff on May 6th in conjunction with the NATO Air Chiefs visit. An arrival ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base will be followed by the evening "Expeditionary Aerospace Tattoo" on Bolling Air Force Base. The tattoo will feature the Ceremonial Brass in "An American Tribute" medley. Our percussion section will dazzle the audience with "*Blitzkrieg*," written by TSgt Scott Hinds, percussion section leader.

The annual Armed Forces Day Open House at Andrews Air Force Base begins Friday, May 14 with an Armed Forces Full Honors Review on the flightline. Several other USAF Band musicians join The Brass to form a 42-piece band to supply a rousing opening to the weekend's festivities.

MSgt Jari Villanueva's extensive "Taps" project comes to fruition Saturday, May 29 at 1 p.m. with the opening of the unprecedented "Taps" Exhibit at the Visitors' Center of Arlington National Cemetery. The history of "Taps" along with sheet music, uniforms, other memorabilia, and, of course, bugles will be displayed culminating months of research and collection of materials. A centerpiece of the exhibit will be the bugle used at the funeral of President John F. Kennedy. Come out and experience this unique exhibit. --MSgt Robert Cheal

Airmen of Note Notes

The Airmen of Note began the month of February with performances at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with The Note's Jazz Outreach Series. These performances gave National Capital Region public and private school music students a terrific opportunity to see a top-flight professional big band "up close and personal". Jazz Outreach Programs were also recently presented at Sherwood High School, Sandy Spring, Md., Randolph/Macon Academy, Front Royal, Va., Towson University, Towson, Md., and T.C. Williams High School, Alexandria, Va.

Early March gave The Airmen of Note the chance to once again entertain President and Mrs. Clinton and their distinguished guests at the White House. In late March, The Note presented a chamber performance at Montgomery College in Rockville, Md., featuring the band's trombone and rhythm sections.

The Note also spent much of the balance of the late winter months participating in The USAF Band's weekly Guest Artist Series at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. The Note not only played a prominent role in "backing up" many of the artists appearing in this year's series, but was instrumental in the presentation of the orchestral works of Duke Ellington.

The month of March has proven to be quite demanding for our talented Alto Saxophone jazz soloist, Andy Axelrad. In early March, Sergeant Axelrad graduated from the Noncommissioned Officer Academy at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. Upon his return to Washington, D.C., Andy was promoted to Master Sergeant; and finally, on March 20, 1999, he married Ms. Jennifer Rickard, a former member of The Strolling Strings. Congratulations to both of them! --MSgt Joe Jackson

CHAMBER PLAYERS EVENTS

February and March saw some splendid and unusual events in our chamber music series. Trumpeter MSgt Rob McConnell presented a fine recital at Montgomery College and was followed by soprano Robin Askew in a beautiful program that also featured pianist MSgt Marek Vastek, and clarinetist TSgt George Stoffan. The unusual events came swiftly — two double bass recitals coincided with Washington's first significant snowfall in three years. The snow won, and the recitals will be rescheduled as soon as time allows. The Airmen of Note trombone section treated a Rockville audience to some power and grace on March 23.

On May 12 look for a concert with The USAF Band Tuba-Euphonium Quartet, and on May 26 MSgts Lawrence Ink and Marek Vastek will present music for solo flute and piano. Both concerts will be held at the Anderson House Museum. Please refer to the calendar for specific information about the upcoming performance. Come out and join us for some exciting and eclectic music. --MSgt William Hones

The Concert Band

We recently returned from a most successful Spring Tour. Thank you to all of those people who supported us in the Midwest. On May 6, we will participate in the annual Twilight Tattoo on the riverfront at Bolling Air Force Base. The rain date for this event is May 7. The following week, on May 14, several members of The Concert Band will be performing at the annual Department of Defense Open House at Andrews Air Force Base. At the end of the month we will be at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day to present a program at the amphitheater.

In June we begin our Summer Concert Series. Look for us at the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday evenings June 1, 15, 22 and 29, and Friday evenings June 4, 18 and 25. Please contact the Concert Line for up-to-date information as the performances draw near. In addition to the our work with the concert series, The Concert Band will spend the second week of June in the recording studio at George Mason University to produce a new compact disc of overtures. --MSgt Jeffrey Gaylord